

GOLD
KEY

00141-412

Richard *Walt Disney's*

12c

NIKKI, WILD DOG OF THE NORTH



Andre Dupas begins the rugged trip to civilization for supplies, little knowing that a great adventure lies ahead for his Malamute pup and a wild bear cub...

NIKKI, WILD DOG OF THE NORTH



Life in the north woods is lonely for Andre Dupas and Nikki, his Malamute puppy, as they head down-river to buy supplies.



However, while making camp, Andre adopts an orphaned bear cub, much to Nikki's dislike and to the bear's disapproval.



Separated from Andre, the two animals find that life on the opposite ends of a leash can be difficult and complicated.



Finally, free of their bond, Nikki and the cub continue as friends, until Nikki is caught by a trapper who has plans for him.



Changed from a gentle dog into a fighter, Nikki is matched in a sport enjoyed by the rugged trappers of the trading post.



But the experience is not all bad for Nikki. There he finds two friends among the bold, brave nomads of the North.

Walt Disney's
MIKKI
 WILD DOG of the NORTH

WITH THE COMING OF SPRING IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, ANDRE DUPAS, RUGGED YOUNG FACTOR OF A REMOTE TRADING POST, MAKES THE LONG CANOE TRIP SOUTH THROUGH THE WILD NORTH WOODS... HE IS RETURNING TO CIVILIZATION TO ORDER SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE NEXT TRADING SEASON...

IT'S A MOOSE, MIKKI... YOU'LL SEE A LOT OF THEM BEFORE WE REACH THE END OF OUR JOURNEY...

YARK!
YARK!



MIKKI, ANDRE'S MALENUTE PUP, IS ALERT AND WATCHFUL AT ALL THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE RIVER...

GRORUPFF!



THE JOURNEY IS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE MANY FALLS ALONG THE TREACHEROUS RIVER...

THAT'S LITTLE THUNDER FALLS UP AHEAD, MIKKI! WE'LL HAVE TO WALK ACROSS THE BEND TO CALMER WATERS!





ALL THE WHILE, NOT TOO FAR FROM ANDRE'S CAMP, NEDNA, THE BEAR CUB, TRIES TO AWAKEN HIS SLEEPING MOTHER...



IN AN ATTEMPT TO AROUSE HER, NEDNA WANDERS OFF TO INVESTIGATE THE SURROUNDINGS...



NEEWA IS CURIOUS, AND SUDDENLY, A
RABBIT SOUNDS OUT OF THE BRUSH...



AND THE CHASE BEGINS...



BUT A NEW SURPRISE AWAITS NEEWA...



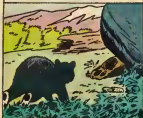
THE BEWILDERED LITTLE CUB CLIMBS
A DEAD TREE TRUNK...



SURVEYING THE SCENE, NEEWA SPOTS
WHAT "LOOKS" LIKE HIS MOTHER...



HAPPY NOT TO BE LOST, NEEWA,
APPROACHES THE SLEEPING BEAR...



PLAYFULLY, THE LITTLE CUB
BITES AT THE BIG FOOT...



BUT THIS IS A DAY OF MANY SURPRISES
FOR THE INEXPERIENCED NEEWA...



MAAKOOD, A FEROCIOUS KILLER KODIAK
BEAR, LEAPS AFTER THE CUB, SNARLING
AND ROARING HIS ANGER...



NEARBY, NEEWA'S MOTHER HEARS
HER OFFSPRING'S CRY FOR HELP...



AS NEEWA ESCAPES UP A SMALL TREE,
THE KODIAK AND SHE-BEAR MEET IN
COMBAT...



THE EARTH TREMBLES AS THE TWO SNARLING BEARS FIGHT FURIOUSLY, TEETH FLASHING...



FINALLY, THE BATTLE IS OVER AND THE HUGE MAKOOS LUNGS OFF, VICTORIOUS...



LITTLE NEEWA LOOKS DOWN AT THE PRONE FIGURE OF HIS MOTHER, UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THAT SHE IS DEAD...



AT THE RIVER CAMPGROUND, NIKKI'S ALERT EARS HAVE CAUGHT THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE...







BUT AT THE BOTTOM, THEY MANAGE TO CLAMBER ONTO A FLOATING LOG...



ANDRE REACHES SAFETY ABOVE THE FALLS AND MAKES ONE LAST CALL...



THEN, SADLY, HE TURNS BACK TO HIS CANOE...



BUT FAR BELOW...



NEEWA SEES HIS CHANCE TO REACH SHORE AND LEAPS...



THE HAPLESS NIKKI IS DRAGGED ALONG BEHIND THE BEAR CUB...



LEASHED TOGETHER, THE MALKMUT PUP
AND THE BEAR CUB HEAD INTO THE WOODS...



AND THEIR LEASH BECOMES A
SNARE WHICH TRAPS THEM...



THE HARDER THE TWO TRY TO FREE
THEMSELVES, THE MORE ENTANGLED
THEY BECOME...



UNWARE THAT NEKI AND THE CUB ARE STILL
ALIVE, ANDRE MOVES DOWN-STREAM, THE LONG
TRIP AHEAD OF HIM A LONELY ONE...



FINALLY FREED FROM THE ENTANGLEMENT,
NEKI SEES HIS MASTER DISAPPEARING IN THE
FAR DISTANCE DOWNSTREAM...HE IS TOO LATE.



AND SO, AS NIKKI HOWLS HIS LONELY GRIEF TO AN UNANSWERING SKY, TWO INNOCENT CHILDREN... A PUPPY AND A BEAR CUB... FACE A BIG AND DANGEROUS WORLD TOGETHER...

WHEREVER NIKKI GOES, NEEWA IS FORCED TO FOLLOW AND WHERE NEEWA GOES, THE SAME IS TRUE...



NIKKI IS PUZZLED BY NEEWA'S CHOICE OF FOOD, AND RELUCTANTLY DECIDES TO TRY IT TOO...

BUT SOMEHOW, NEEWA DOES NOT AGREE WITH A MALENUITE PUPPY...



SLEEPING HABITS, TOO, ARE QUITE DIFFERENT...

BUT IN THIS, THE TWO STRIKE A HAPPY MEDIUM...





FOLLOWING THE SCENT OF MAN, NIKKI COMES UPON A TRAPPER'S CAMP JUST AFTER SUNDOWN...

THIS HAS BEEN ONE LONG MUSH, MAKOKI! HOW MUCH PARTNER?

ONE MOON! WE FIND PLENTY FOR, BEAVER, HARTEN... LIKE MAKOKI PROMISE!



LEBEAU MAKE PROMISE, TOO... WE PARTNERS... EVERYTHING EVEN!

OH, SURE, SURE... PARTNERS! MY TRAPS... YOUR TRAP LINE!



AS THE TWO MEN PREPARE TO EAT, THE SCENT OF FOOD WAFTS TOWARD NIKKI WHO IS HALF-STARVED...



NIKKI WHINES AND THE TRAPPERS HEAR HIM...

WOLF!



BLAM!

ZING





A FISHER CAT ATTACKS HIM SAVAGELY...



NIXI FIGHTS BACK, BUT THE CLEVER CAT HAS THE ADVANTAGES OF SURPRISE AND SUPERIOR STRENGTH ON HIS SIDE...



BUT, SUDDENLY, NEEWA APPEARS AND RUSHES TO NIXI'S AID...



NOT LIKING THE ODDS, THE CAT SCURRIES UP A NEARBY TREE...



THE TWO ANIMAL FRIENDS ARE HAPPY OVER THEIR REUNION...



AND THEY REMAIN TOGETHER, BECOMING CLOSER FRIENDS AS THE MONTHS PASS...



THEY WRESTLE PLAYFULLY AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AS YOUNGSTERS WILL, BUT ONE FALL DAY, THEIR PLAYFULNESS ALMOST HAS TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES...



TOO LATE, NIKKI BARKS A WARNING...



AND NEEWA TOPPLES RIGHT INTO A THOUSAND POUNDS OF TROUBLE... OLD HAKOOD, THE KILLER BEAR, WHO HAD MADE NEEWA AN ORPHAN MONTHS BEFORE...



SEEING THE FEROCIOUS OLD KIL-BEAR CHARGING AFTER NEEWA, NIKKI RACES DOWN THE SLOPE TO GIVE AID...



NEEWA SCRAMBLES UP A TREE THAT IS TOO SMALL FOR THE OLD BEAR TO CLIMB...



BUT NOT TOO SMALL FOR THE GIANT TO SHAKE...

GRRRR!



IT LOOKS BAD FOR NEEWA, BUT NIKO RACES IN, BARKING LOUDLY TO DISTRACT THE HUGE KILLER...



NIKO DODGES OUT OF HARM'S WAY AS HE TAUNTS THE CLUMSY BEAR...



WHILE NIKO'S IS KEPT BUSY, NEEWA MAKES A HASTY RETREAT...



THEN, SEEING THAT HIS FRIEND IS SAFE,
NIKO ALSO DECIDES THAT DISCRETION IS
THE BETTER PART OF VALOR...



QUICKLY HE RUNS INSIDE A LARGE
HOLLOW TREE, WITH THE BEAR JUST
BEHIND HIM...



BUT MAKOOS SOON FINDS THAT
HE HAS BEEN TRICKED...



NIKO WASTES NO TIME IN SENDING
THE OLD BEAR ON A ONE-WAY RIDE...



THEN THE TWO FRIENDS GO MERRILY
ON THEIR WAY, ANOTHER BATTLE WON...



NIKO CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY NEEWA
SEEMS SO SLEEPY IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE DAY... WHY HE REFUSES TO PLAY...



THE NEXT DAY, VERY PUZZLED BY THE
WAYS OF BEARS, NIKO DIPS OUT OF THE
SNOW-COVERED CAVE TO SEARCH FOR
FOOD...



SOON, WINTER COMES... AND NIKO IS
PUZZLED BY NEEWA'S STRANGE ACTIONS...



WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT NEEWA
IS GOING TO SLEEP ALL WINTER FOR THIS
IS THE BEGINNING OF THE HIBERNATION
PERIOD...



BUT HE SOON LEARNS THAT THE SNOW-
COVERED WASTES OF THE WILDERNESS
DO NOT OFFER MUCH IN THE WAY OF
SUPPER...



HE WANTS PRESENTLY TO HUNT IN A
MUSKRAT HOUSE ON A FROZEN LAKE.



BUT WHEN MR. MUSKRAT SHOWS HIS FACE,
NIKKI SOON LEARNS THAT FROZEN ICE
DOESN'T OFFER VERY MUCH FOOTING...



SO HE LEAVES TO TRY
HIS LUCK ELSEWHERE...



NIKKI STRUGGLES AGAINST A BLIZZARD
AS HE TRIES TO FIND BETTER HUNTING
GROUNDS...



THEN, SOMETIME LATER,
HE PICKS UP A SCENT...



IT'S YUCK! A DEER! A HIDE AWAY, FOR
AN HOUR, BUT NOT FOR THIS!





HE PICKS UP NEW MAN TRACKS AND
FOLLOWS THEM TO A STRANGE-LOOKING
WOODEN STRUCTURE...



INSIDE IS A TANTALIZING PIECE OF MEAT
AND NIKKI IN HIS INNOCENCE GOES
AFTER IT...



THE STEEL JAWS OF THE TRAP BARBLY
MISS A SURPRISED NIKKI...



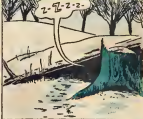
THEN, AFTER KICKING SNOW ON THE
METAL ENEMY, HE LEARNS THAT IT
WILL NOT BITE AGAIN...



FOLLOWING THE TRAP LINES, AROUND SPRINGS, OTHER TRAPS AND TAKES THE BAIT.



THEN, FULL AND HAPPY, HE FINDS A COZY WINDFALL AND DOES...



PRESENTLY
THE TRAPPERS
DISCOVER
THAT ALL
THEIR TRAPS
ARE SPRUNG.

BOAY! EVERY TRAP ON THE LINE! AND ALL ALIKE! IT'S THE

HOT WOLF
...DOG!

SAVE WOLF
ALL RIGHT!



WHEN WOLF SMELL MAN,
HE CIRCLE TRAP MANY
TIMES ... WHEN DOG
SMELL MAN, HE SO
STRAIGHT TO TRAP!

**DOG OR WOLF...
I'LL GET HIM!**



TRACKS EASY
TO FOLLOW!

I HAVE EYES, INDIAN!
LET'S GO!





AND THE RABBIT, UNWITTINGLY OFFERS HIM A CHANCE TO ESCAPE EXECUTION...











SOON THE SETS ARE MADE AND THE Frenzied crowd is ready for the fighting to begin. To Mick, this is all part of a nightmare. He has learned to hate, but it is a hatred of men. He has no quarrel with Taq, the wolf-dog, but he knows he must fight or die...



THE CASE DOORS ARE OPENED. THE WOLF-DOG AND NIKKI COME TOGETHER IN A BLAZE OF SHARING FURY.

GRAAAG!

GRRRR!

GET HIM, HALENUTE!



RAZOR-LIKE TEETH FLASH VICIOUSLY...



BUT SOON, NIKKI'S GREAT STRENGTH WEARS DOWN THE WOLF-DOG...



ALL RIGHT, LEBBAU!
YOU WIN! CALL HIM OFF!



LEBBAU GETS A LOOP OVER NIKKI'S
HEAD AND YANKS TIMIDELY...

ALL RIGHT, DURANTE, IF YOU WANT YOUR DOG ALIVE,
GET HIM OUT OF THERE!







NIRRO STRAINS AT THE LEASH AS ANDRE AND LEBEAU BEGIN
"LA SQUATE," THE FRENCH STYLE OF FIGHTING WITH THE FEET...



BY SHOWING HIS ACTIONS FROM THE CROWD, LEBEAU DRAWS A KNIFE.



BUT HIS ACTION DOES NOT ESCAPE THE SHARP EYE OF NAKKI, WHO QUICKLY FREES NIKKI...



THREE WEEKS
LATER, THE
COMING OF
SPRING
FINDS ANDRE
AND NIKKI
AGAIN TAKING
THE TRIP
DOWN-RIVER...
ONLY THIS
TIME, THEY
HAVE A NEW
FRIEND
WITH THEM,
THE CREW
INDIAN,
MAKOKI...

LITTLE THUNDER!
REMEMBER THIS
SPOT, NIKKI?

YARK!
YARK!



IT WAS JUST BELOW HERE THAT I
LOST HIM, MAKOKI! SEEMS LIKE A
LOT LONGER THAN A YEAR AGO!

YARK!



NIKKI CERTAINLY DOES REMEMBER...
HE RUNS AHEAD, SEARCHING FOR
HIS FRIEND, NEEWA...

SNUFF!



HIS FINDS THE CAVE WHERE
HE LAST SAW NEEWA...

YARK!
YARK!



AND SURE ENOUGH...

WOOF!

GRRRRF!
SLURP!



BUT THE REUNION IS A SHORT ONE, FOR THE SOUND OF HIS MASTER'S VOICE BECKONS...



AND NIKKI WHINES MOURNFULLY, KNOWING HE WILL NEVER SEE NEEWA AGAIN IF HE FOLLOWS ANDRE DUBAS...



FINALLY, NIKKI MAKES HIS CHOICE...



YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE A COUPLE OF WOLVERINES! THEY FOUGHT ALL THE TIME!



AS THE CUB'S HEADS DOWN-RIVER, NEEWA IS A SILENT SPECTATOR TO THE DEPARTURE...



THE FACTORS



In the Canadian wilds, factors like Andre Dupas were very important men. The word *factor* means agent, and factors were, simply enough, agents for the great fur companies. Their task was to buy pelts from trappers.



The trading posts were more than fur marts. They were general stores and social clubs, too. At the posts the trappers sold pelts, bought supplies, met friends, gossiped, bragged, and generally blew off steam after the lonely months spent tending trap lines.



To get furs, factors operated trading posts where trapping was best—hundreds of miles beyond the frontiers. In summer, supplies were brought in by canoe; in winter, the link with the outside world was the dogsled.



To these rugged men, blowing off steam could be a very strenuous business. Dog fights were usual; fights between men were even more usual. Since the nearest law officer might be a thousand miles away, it was the factor who kept order at his post.



The factors developed into a very special breed of men, tough and strong as the trappers they dealt with. They were self-reliant, skilled in the art of keeping alive in the cruel North Country. And they brought the first measure of law and order to a wilderness which was as rugged as the men who opened it for trade.

NIKKI, WILD DOG OF THE NORTH

MALEMUTES



Like all Malemutes, Nikki was a descendant of the sturdy sled dogs bred by the hard-working Malemute Eskimos. A cousin of the Eskimo dog and the Husky, the Malemute is one of the great working dogs of the North.



Part-wolf, part-dog, Malemutes do not usually bark. They rip and yowl like their wolf ancestors. Yet they are faithful, affectionate companions to man and, out of harness, they make gentle, loving pets.



The great strength of these dogs is legend in the North Country, where men have wagered small fortunes on a dog's ability to move heavy loads. One 98-pound Malemute holds the world's record; alone, he moved a sled loaded with more than a ton of goods.



But just to move a load isn't enough. Dog teams pull heavy sleds over hundreds of frozen miles. On any team, the lead dog is most important; his pull on the harness guides the other dogs. In dangerous areas a good lead dog always knows the safest way.



In recent years, airplanes have spanned the immense area of the North Country, but for reliable everyday transportation, sled dogs have never been replaced. In the frozen land where roads are few and are difficult to maintain, where machines freeze up or break down, the sled dog is king. He probably always will be!